

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 8, 12, and 13 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7, 16, and 17 are herein cancelled. Claims 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, and 22 have been amended herein. New claim 24 is presented herein. All of the pending claims 6, 9-11, 14, 15, and 18-24 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1.-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide ~~sequence set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:169.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9 (Currently amended) ~~The sequence of interest of claim 7,~~ An isolated polynucleotide of interest, the isolated polynucleotide of interest comprising,
a promoter, operably linked to
a polynucleotide encoding a nucleic acid of interest;
wherein the nucleic acid of interest is produced by a process comprising:
isolating plant material;
inducing stress adaptation in said isolated plant material by application of a sublethal stress;
identifying differential expression of a nucleic acid between stress-adapted and nonadapted plant material; and
isolating said differentially expressed nucleic acid;
wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid comprises the nucleic acid of interest, and
wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid comprises a nucleic acid encoding a

polypeptide having at least 90% identity with sequence encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:169.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The sequence of interest of claim 7,~~ An isolated polynucleotide of interest, the isolated polynucleotide of interest comprising,
a promoter, operably linked to
a polynucleotide encoding a nucleic acid of interest;
wherein the nucleic acid of interest is produced by a process comprising:
isolating plant material;
inducing stress adaptation in said isolated plant material by application of a sublethal stress;
identifying differential expression of a nucleic acid between stress-adapted and nonadapted plant material; and
isolating said differentially expressed nucleic acid;
wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid comprises the nucleic acid of interest, and
wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide having at least 90% identity with sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:168.

11. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method of modulating plant stress tolerance, said method comprising:
isolating plant material;
inducing stress adaptation in said isolated plant material by application of a sublethal stress;
identifying differential expression of a ~~sequence~~ nucleic acid between stress-adapted and nonadapted plant material;
isolating a differentially expressed nucleic acid ~~sequence~~, wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid ~~sequence~~ encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:169, or wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:169 ~~a sequence of interest that is at least 60% identical to said differentially expressed sequence,~~
introducing said differentially expressed nucleic acid ~~sequence~~ into a vector;

introducing said vector into a plant cell; and
expressing said differentially expressed nucleic acid sequence, thereby modulating plant stress tolerance.

12.-13. (Canceled).

14. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said differentially expressed nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:168 or a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 168.

15. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

identifying a genomic DNA sequence corresponding to a 5' end of said differentially expressed nucleic acid sequence; and

identifying a promoter sequence in said genomic DNA.

16.-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of interest sequence of interest of claim 7 9, wherein the process for producing said polynucleotide encoding a nucleic acid of interest the sequence of interest further comprises:

identifying genomic DNA corresponding to a 5' end of said differentially expressed sequence nucleic acid; and

identifying a promoter sequence in said genomic DNA.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein stress adaptation is induced by a methyl viologen pretreatment or treatment.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein said isolated plant

material is tobacco.

21. (Currently amended) The isolated polynucleotide of interest of claim 7, wherein the process for producing the polynucleotide encoding a nucleic acid of interest ~~sequence of interest~~ further comprises:

inserting said differentially expressed ~~sequence~~ nucleic acid of interest into a vector.

22. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising introducing said differentially expressed nucleic acid ~~sequence of interest~~ into a vector and introducing said vector into a plant cell, thereby producing a plant cell having increased stress tolerance.

23. (Withdrawn) A plant comprising the plant cell of claim 22.

24. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% identity to SEQ ID NO:169.